



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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***Washington, D.C. 20534***

June 11, 2015

**MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ENVIRONMENTAL & SAFETY COMPLIANCE  
ADMINISTRATORS**



From: CDR Sylvie I. Cohen, MD, MPH, Chief  
Occupational & Employee Health Branch

Subject: Workplace Mold

This memorandum provides guidance for all Environmental & Safety Compliance Administrators (ESCAs) who may have mold issues within their institutions' premises and are considering hiring a contractor to address them. Currently there is no OSHA standard for unacceptable levels of mold in the workplace. According to OSHA, it is generally not necessary to identify the specific genus and species of mold. Since an individual's susceptibility (i.e. potentially allergic staff or inmates) can vary greatly, mold sampling may not be reliable in determining health risks.

Therefore, we do not recommend hiring an outside contractor as a first step, rather by maintaining the highest level of sanitation most mold issues can be avoided. If mold is encountered in your institution, we recommend that you first use a "solution-oriented approach" to address the issue. The visible presence of mold in the workplace is a direct indication that the affected surface(s)/area(s) need to be remediated/removed. The following are recommended guidelines:

- Any roofs, windows, or interior plumbing leaks that could result in interior porous furnishings becoming wet leading to mold growth should be permanently repaired.
- Any water-damaged interior furnishings (i.e. carpeting, drywall, ceiling tiles, etc.) should be removed and replaced.
- Any surface contaminated with mold should be cleansed with appropriate disinfection solution which would include a dilute solution of bleach or the BOP-issued HDQC2 sanitation agent with a 10 minute wet surface contact time.

There are numerous guidelines available to address the presence of mold in the workplace. Mold remediation is a team effort involving various departments in your institution to include but not

limited to Environmental Safety and Compliance, Facilities, and Health Services. The following websites can provide guidance in your efforts to control and remediate for mold:

- <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/molds/>
- [http://www.epa.gov/mold/mold\\_remediation.html](http://www.epa.gov/mold/mold_remediation.html)
- <http://www.cdc.gov/mold/>

Please contact Captain Stephen Berardinelli, Certified Industrial Hygienist, at [SBerardinelli@bop.gov](mailto:SBerardinelli@bop.gov) for consultation prior to engaging with any outside contractors on air and/or surface sampling when mold is being considered.